

### ***Listing of the Claims***

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended)     Isolated *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) having a growth rate that is at least 5% greater than the growth rate of *E. coli* MM294, wherein said *E. coli* ~~do not contain any detectable genetic material of~~ are resistant to infection by bacteriophage Wphi.

3. (Currently Amended)     Isolated *E. coli* having a growth rate that is at least 5% greater than the growth rate of *E. coli* MM294, wherein said *E. coli* ~~do not contain any detectable genetic material of~~ are resistant to infection by bacteriophage Mu.

4. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim 2, wherein said *E. coli* additionally do not contain any detectable genetic material of one or more bacteriophage types selected from the group consisting of Mu, T1, T2, T3, T4, T5, T6 and T7.

5. (Currently Amended)     The isolated *E. coli* of claim ~~1~~ 4, wherein said *E. coli* lack detectable levels of at least one endogenous plasmid.

6. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim 2, wherein said *E. coli* lack detectable levels of at least one endogenous plasmid.

7. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim 3, wherein said *E. coli* lack detectable levels of at least one endogenous plasmid.

8. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim + 4, wherein said *E. coli* contain one or more genotype markers selected from the group consisting of: *recA*<sup>-</sup>, *lacZ*<sup>-</sup>,  $\Delta lon$ , *ompT*<sup>-</sup>, *endA1*, *rnaE*<sup>-</sup>, *rnaI*<sup>-</sup>, *hsdR17*(*rK*<sup>-</sup>, *mK*<sup>+</sup>), *hsdS20*(*rB*<sup>-</sup>, *mB*<sup>+</sup>), *merA*, *mcrB*, *mrr*, *deoR*, *supE* and *supF*.

9. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim + 4, wherein said *E. coli* contain one or more genotype markers selected from the group consisting of: *recA1*, *recA13*,  $\Delta recA$ , *lacX74*, and *lacZ* $\Delta$ M15.

10. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim + 4, wherein said *E. coli* contain an F' episome or portions thereof.

11. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim + 4, wherein said *E. coli* have a growth rate that is at least 25% greater than the growth rate of *E. coli* MM294.

12. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim + 4, wherein said *E. coli* have a growth rate that is at least 50% greater than the growth rate of *E. coli* MM294.

13. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim ~~1~~ 4, wherein said *E. coli* have a growth rate that is at least 100% greater than the growth rate of *E. coli* MM294.

14. (Currently Amended) The isolated *E. coli* of claim ~~1~~ 4, wherein said *E. coli* are *E. coli* strain W or strain C.

15-76 (Canceled).

77. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising *E. coli*, wherein the *E. coli* of said composition have a growth rate that is at least 5% greater than the growth rate of *E. coli* MM294, and wherein said *E. coli* ~~do not contain detectable levels of bacteriophage genetic material from at least one bacteriophage or in the alternative is~~ resistant to infection by ~~one or more bacteriophage types~~ bacteriophage Mu.

78. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 77 wherein said *E. coli* is JDP674 or derivatives thereof.

79. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising *E. coli*, wherein the *E. coli* of said composition have a growth rate that is at least 5% greater than the growth rate of *E. coli* MM294, and wherein said *E. coli* do not contain detectable levels of genetic material of bacteriophage Wphi.

80-107 (Canceled).